The Thornton Waste Technology Park is being built as part of Lancashire County Council and Blackpool Council’s Joint Waste Contract. This newsletter is part of the County Council’s commitment to keep local residents informed about progress and current issues. Global Renewables Lancashire (GRL) is responsible for building and operating the facility and one of its key responsibilities is Community Liaison and keeping residents informed.

Community Open Days

The Thornton Waste Technology Park will open and begin receiving waste from early Spring 2010. Before this happens Lancashire County Council, Blackpool Council, Global Renewables and W2R will be opening its doors to local residents to offer them the opportunity to see first hand what will happen to their household waste once it arrives at this new state-of-the-art facility.

The Open Days will be held on Sunday 14 and Sunday 21 February, with four tours running throughout each day; each tour will last up to two hours. Tours will include a short presentation giving visitors an overview of the facility and the technology involved, followed by a full tour of the facility inside the warmth and comfort of a mini bus.

As construction is still in full flow on site, GRL is only able to open to visitors over these two days. Therefore places will be available on a first come, first served basis. However should you miss out on this opportunity at Thornton, you will have opportunities to visit the Leyland facility later on in the year when this opens. The Leyland facility mirrors Thornton with the addition of a Material Recovery Facility (MRF), which will separate mixed glass, plastic and cans, and an Environmental Education Centre. The Education Centre has an elevated viewing walkway which can take visitors into the different processing buildings, allowing them to look down at the machinery as it receives, sorts and processes the many different waste streams.

The Education Centre has been developed primarily to provide Lancashire’s 7 – 11 year old school children with an exciting hands-on environmental experience. However, it has been designed to be available for different groups and for different events, including guided tours of the facility via the walkway for all ages. The walkway is accessible via a lift and ramps and is therefore fully accessible for wheelchair users.

When?
Sunday 14 and Sunday 21 February 2010 at 9am, 11am, 1pm and 3pm

How long will they last?
No longer than two hours each, including refreshments and registration, a short presentation and the mini bus tour itself.

Who is eligible?
Anybody over the age of 14 is welcome to take the tour and those visitors under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

Unfortunately, as the facility is still a working construction site and the mini bus does not have wheelchair access we are unable to accommodate people who use a wheelchair. However our Leyland facility, which opens in the summer, is much better equipped for wheelchair users, so nobody should miss out.

How can I book on to a tour?
To book your place on the tour please call Community Liaison on free phone 0800 6335 463 quoting ‘Thornton Resident Open Days’.

What if places run out?
If places run out you will have the opportunity to visit Thornton’s sister site in Leyland later on next year; details of this will be posted in future newsletters once that opens. GRL will also set up a small reserve list just in case people cancel at the last minute.
First Community Liaison Group Meeting Takes Place

For the past 18 months W2R, the construction company who are building the facility, have hosted regular construction liaison meetings with members of the local community.

These meetings were held quarterly and concentrated mainly on construction site updates. With the launch of the facility just around the corner, these meetings are now taking on a more operational focus.

The first operations based community liaison meeting was held on Monday 26 October and over 100 people turned up to meet people from Global Renewables Lancashire, Lancashire County Council and W2R.

The meeting was chaired by:

**County Councillor** Andrea Kay

Supported by:

Vicki Heyes

**Community Liaison Manager**

Global Renewables Lancashire

Andrew Roclawski

**General Manager**

Global Renewables Lancashire

Martin Hopkins

**Chief Executive Officer**

Global Renewables

Sue Procter

**Group Head of Waste Management**

Lancashire County Council

Richard Spires

**Start Up Manager**

W2R

Richard Mander-Jones

**Start Up Manager**

Global Renewables Lancashire

Agenda items on the evening included discussions about traffic coming in to the facility; aspirations for the future of the Thornton Community Liaison Group (CLG) moving forward; a “fly through” presentation showing how the facility will work and how it will recover resources from the waste; the start up of the facility and what will happen when waste is delivered in spring 2010; recruitment opportunities and a round up of comments and complaints about the site so far.

Attendees who wanted to represent the community at meetings in the future were asked to fill out a card to apply for a place on the CLG. Global Renewables and Lancashire County Council were delighted by the positive response to this and hope to be able to accommodate the majority of those who have asked to be involved. The CLG, which includes local elected members from LCC and Wyre BC and local residents, will meet on Monday 1 February 2010.

If you have something that you would like to add to the agenda then please contact Community Liaison on free phone 0800 6335 463 or email Lancashire_enquiries@globalrenewables.co.uk quoting ‘Thornton CLG Meetings’.

Global Renewables Lancashire has approached Thornton Football Club with a view to using its facilities as a venue to train its staff in turn for a fee. Empowering the local community is important to GRL and it is looking forward to working with one of its closest neighbours early in the New Year.
Global Renewables Lancashire is committed to finding the right people to help run this ground breaking facility. From plant managers and shift supervisors to grapple operators and hand sorters, there will be a vast variety of roles available and a lot of work has gone into setting up recruitment processes this year, in preparation for the main recruitment drive in 2010.

All vacancies will be advertised on GRL’s web page www.globalrenewables.co.uk/workingsforglobalrenewables, and in some cases, in the local press and via recruitment agencies too.

In addition to these traditional approaches to recruitment, GRL has formed a close partnership with Jobcentre Plus to set up a pre employment course which will hopefully enable as many local people to have access to the new positions in the Thornton area as soon as possible. It is very important to GRL, Lancashire County Council and Blackpool Council that they recognise that this is a local initiative and local people should benefit from any new business partnerships that are developed. Jobcentre Plus, in conjunction with Blackpool and the Fylde College, have been instrumental in developing the course and we guarantee that any individual who attends that course for the full three weeks will be offered an interview with Global Renewables Lancashire.

The 16 hours per week course can be taken during the day for the unemployed or in the evenings for those currently in employment.

To enquire or apply for the pre-employment course please contact a member of the Labour Market Recruitment Team at Jobcentre Plus on 01253 615603 or email linda.allred@jobcentreplus.gsi.gov.uk.

Construction Update

- Pre-commissioning work (testing) is currently taking place on the equipment in the Receivals Halls and Separation Building where the waste will first arrive, this includes conveyor belts and grapples, which are large grabbers used to pick up the waste and place it on the conveyor belts.
- Pre-commissioning work is also being carried out to the composting process; this will involve checking that the large overhead rotating screws (augers), which turn the compost over a six week period, are in full working order.
- Internal road surfacing is now almost complete which brings a completely different visual aspect to the site.
- Training of operational staff will start during January and February as many of the operative roles will have been recruited by then; this will include Forklift Truck Drivers, Front End Loader Drivers, Grapple Operators and Control Room Operators.

Supporting our communities

Being a good neighbour, supporting local community and national charities is important to Global Renewables Lancashire and W2R. So far this year they have raised a total of £4,835.93 and supported six local and national charities; Brian House (local children’s hospice), Fleetwood College, MacMillan Nurses, Breast Cancer Campaign, Children in Need and World Aids Day.

This year Global Renewables Lancashire was also one of the sponsors of Thornton’s festive Christmas lights outside the Shopping Centre and Little Theatre.

Local children switch on the town’s Christmas lights.
The first meeting of the newly formed Community Liaison Group (CLG) will be on Monday 1 February. If you have any items you would like adding to the agenda for discussion please email these to Lancashire_enquiries@globalrenewables.co.uk or call free phone 0800 6335 463 quoting ‘Thornton CLG’.

We promise to keep you regularly informed with whatever is happening on and around the site. If you have any queries or suggestions then please don’t hesitate to get in touch.

Even though we may print the newsletter it doesn’t mean that you can’t have your say in what we discuss. If there is anything that you would like to see featured in future editions or if there is anything else that you need to know then please drop us a line.

Is there anything else you would like to talk about?

Our promise

We promise to keep you regularly informed with whatever is happening on and around the site. If you have any queries or suggestions then please don’t hesitate to get in touch.

Contact us

call: 0800 633 5463
email: lancashire_enquiries@globalrenewables.co.uk
web: www.globalrenewables.co.uk
post: Community Liaison, Global Renewables Lancashire Limited, Lancashire Waste Technology Park, Sustainability Way, Leyland, Lancashire, PR26 6TJ

emergency out of hours contact: 01253 338045

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